

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5438
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3045

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR, UR
SUBJECT POSSIBLE REFOULEMENT OF URUGUAYAN REFUGEES

1. UNHCR OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN TO EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE REGARDING POSSIBLE REFOULEMENT OF MORE THAN 21 URUGUAYAN REFUGEES. UNHCR HAS INFORMATION THAT ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES PERMITTED URUGUAYAN ARMY INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVES TO CNDUCT OPERATIONS IN BUENOS AIRES IN LATE DECEMBER AND JANUARY TO ARREST A NUMBER OF URUGUAYAN REFUGEES RESIDING IN ARGENTINA. UNHCR OFFICIALS SPECULATE THAT URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES MAY BELIEVE THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS HAD CONNECTION WITH GRUPO ACCIONISTA UNIFICADO (GAU) WHICH HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF RECENT ANTI SUBVERSIVE EFFORT WITHIN URUGUAY.

2. IN ONE CASE, WHICH UNHCR BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY, FAMILY OF AN ABDUCTED URUGUAYAN REFUGEE WAS CONTACTED AND INFORMED THAT A PAYMENT OF US \$8,000 WOULD INSURE THAT THE CAPTURED
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FAMILY MEMBER WOULD BE ACQUITTED OF CHARGES OF SUBVERSION UPON HIS RETURN TO URUGUAY.

3. UNHCR IS CONCERNED BY THE REFOULEMENT AND BY THE FACT THAT ARGENTINA AUTHORITIES PERMITTED URUGUAYAN SECURITY FORCES TO CNDUCT OPERATIONS IN BUENOS AIRES. THEY HAVE SUSPICIONS THAT THIS MIGHT BE A RETURN FAVOR FOR GOU CO

OPERATION IN THE CASE OF OSCAR RUBEN DE GREGORIO.

4. THE UNHCR HAS PROTESTED A SIMILAR BUT ISOLATED CASE OF REFOULEMENT WHICH TOOK PLACE IN LATE 1977 TO ARGENTINE AND URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES. THEIR PROTEST HAS RESULTED IN AN OFFICIAL JUDICIAL INQUIRY IN ARGENTINA AND AGREEMENT BY THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT TO GRANT THE REFUGEE (NAME WITHHELD) WHO WAS FORCIBLY RETURNED TO URUGUAY PERMISSION TO BE RESETTLED AS A REFUGEE DIRECTLY FROM URUGUAY.

5. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES OF THE 21 URUGUAYANS AND ONE BRAZILIAN BELIEVED BY THE UNHCR TO HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY RETURNED TO URUGUAY:

ALTUNA FERNANDEZ, ELSA ZULMA
ARCE VIEIRA, GUSTAVO RAUL
CASTRO HUERGA MARTINEZ, MARIA ANTONIO
D ELIA, YOLANDA CASCO DE
D ELIA PALLARES, JULIO CESAR
DOSSETTI TECHEIRA, EDMUND SABINO
MARTINEZ, MARIO
O NEIL VELAZQUEZ, HABER EDMUNDO
GANDARA GASTROMAN, ELBA LUCIA
RIOS CASAS, MIGUEL ANGEL
CASTILLO, ATALIVA
BASUALDO, GRACIELA NOEMI
CORCHS, ALBERTO
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CORCHS, ELENA LERENA DE
GOMEZ ROSANO, CELICA
GOYCOECHEA CAMACHO, GUSTAVO ALEJANDRO
BARRIENTES, CAROLINA
FONTOURA, ANDRES
CARNEIRO DE FONTOURA, JUBELINHO
CABEZUDO, CARLOS
BORELLI CATTANGO, RAUL E.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON THE REAPPEARANCE OR STATUS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS.
CASTRO

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NNN

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